

# The Wright News

Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District

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## Stretching your Chemical Dollars with Fall Spraying

Believe it or not, it is time to start the process of weed control for next year. Before fall pasture growth takes off is an excellent time to look for the rosettes which will become next year's seed producing plant. Thistles, knapweed, poison hemlock, chicory, plantain and a multitude of other weeds that are looking to steal nutrients from your grass are now sprouting. A nice evening stroll through your pastures and hay fields this fall can save you big headaches next spring and summer. While out walking don't forget to look in the fence lines for these rosettes.

Control of the species I mentioned can be achieved most effectively in the fall based on cost and kill percentage. At this stage of growth 2-4D is an excellent choice for spraying and the lowest recommended application rate will work well. This will make your dollar stretch a lot farther than waiting until spring when the plants bolt and more chemical is required. Clipping pastures is expensive calculating in time and diesel expense and usually isn't completed before the plants go to seed causing spreading of the seed with the brush hog.

Clover kill is often a concern of landowners and it is a legitimate concern. An evaluation of the stand of clover in relation to the infestation of weeds will need to be completed at which time a decision will need to be made. Questions you will need to answer; are there enough clover plants here to be concerned about? Am I willing to sacrifice some clover to control the weeds? What will it cost me to put clover back? If spraying is an issue there are biological controls available which you can find with a simple Google search.

As always, the Wright County Soil & Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff are available to answer questions and can be reached at (417)741-6195 ext. 4.

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